REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully

requested.

By the present Preliminary Amendment a new Abstract believed to be in more proper

format under United States practice is submitted.

Further, claims 1-20 are canceled without prejudice and new claims 21-40 are

presented for examination. New claims 21-40 are deemed to be self-evident from the original

disclosure, including the original claims, and thus are not deemed to raise any issues of new

matter. Further, new claims 21-40 are not believed to be more narrow in scope in any aspect

in comparison with canceled claims 1-20.

The present application is believed to be in condition for a full and thorough

examination on the merits. An early and favorable consideration of the present application is

hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,

MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000 Fax: (703) 413 -2220

(OSMMN 06/04)

Gregory J. Maier

Attorney of Record

Registration No. 25,599

Surinder Sachar

Registration No. 34,423

GJM:SNS\la

I:\ATTY\SNS\283731us-pr.DOC

9